



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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July 11, 2001

TO: State Board of Health Members

FROM: Vickie Ybarra, Chair of the Children's Health and Well Being Subcommittee

RE: **Children's Health and Well Being Subcommittee Report**

Background and Summary:

As the Board prepares to set its new priorities, I want to update you Children's Health and Well Being Subcommittee activities over the past year.

The Subcommittee's work has been centered on making sure **all** children receive necessary clinical preventive services to enable them to lead healthy lives. This past year we focused on well-child screenings for young children as a first step because that is where we can make the biggest impact. All of our work has been based on determining what children should have access to and what mechanisms exist to provide that care.

Part of the Subcommittee's work has focused on specific rules under the Board's statutory authority. We have tried to examine these rules in the context of access to care rather than in a piecemeal way. The rule review process is continuing and we are working closely with DOH and OSPI and others to consider proposing changes when the evidence indicates that change is needed.

We hope the Board will continue to consider the big picture for children as it sets future priorities. In the meantime, we will continue to provide information on what services children should receive and we will continue the rule review process in good faith and bring you our findings. Below is a specific report on all our various activities.

Well Child Screenings

Recommended List of Clinical Preventive Services for Children Ages Birth to 10

At the Board's November 2000 meeting, the Board approved the *Recommended List of Clinical Preventive Services for Children Ages Birth to 10*. This list has been widely distributed and positively received. We have received feedback that the list is the only one of its kind and provides support for known clinical preventive services that all young children should receive.

Informational Brochure: ***Start Right—Start Healthy***

The Board agreed to develop and distribute a brochure providing information about the recommended health screenings that all young children should receive. This brochure, ***Start Right—Start Healthy***, is a guide for parents that describes the components of a well-child checkup for children entering kindergarten. The brochure is attached for your review and use. In addition, we will distribute it broadly and have prepared the attached draft distribution plan.

Study of Well Child Screenings at School Entry

At the March 2001 Board meeting, the Board approved a study to assess the number of children receiving well-child exams by school entry. This study was to be conducted in partnership with OSPI, DSHS, and DOH. Initial results of the study were due to the Board in the fall and final results were due by January 2002. The recommendation was unanimously approved:

The Board should continue to oversee and coordinate joint efforts among OSPI, DSHS, DOH, willing local health jurisdictions, and other willing agencies and organizations to assess the number of children receiving well-child exams by kindergarten entry. The Board will receive results of this assessment by January 2002, with interim results reported in fall 2001, and intends to make the results available to interested persons.

Unfortunately, the team of OSPI, DSHS, DOH and the Board could not implement this study in that timeframe. Instead, I have asked staff to obtain information about the states across the nation that currently require well child screenings by school entry. I have just received a draft of a study prepared for the Board by Rick Brandon, Director of the Human Services Policy Center at the University of Washington, that provides this information. I suggest that we revise the recommendation approved by the Board in March 2001.

Recommended Board Action

The Board's Subcommittee on Children's Health and Well Being requests that the Board consider, amend and approve the following statement:

The Washington State Board of Health has determined that it is unable to conduct the planned 2001 collaborative assessment with OSPI, DSHS, and DOH to assess children receiving well child screenings by school entry in Washington. In lieu of this assessment, the Board shall conduct a survey of states throughout the nation that require well child screenings by school entry.

Visual and Auditory Screening Rule Review: WAC 246-760

The Board has been working with DOH and OSPI to review the visual and auditory screening rule that directs schools to screen students for vision and hearing problems. The purpose of the rule review is to assess whether the number of screenings required under the current code and the grade levels at which the code stipulates that these screenings must occur are appropriate. To

assess the cost-effectiveness of screening by grade level, DOH and OSPI are surveying school nurses about the results of screenings. This analysis is still underway; results are due to the Board by September. At that time, the Board should determine whether it is prepared to propose

a rule change. It may instead decide to withdraw the CR-101. If the Board proceeds with a proposed rule change, a public hearing on the draft rule (as specified in a CR-102) would need to be held at a future Board meeting.

Scoliosis Screening Rule Review and Possible Proposed Legislation: WAC 246-762 and RCW 28A.210.220

In March, the Board recommended that the Subcommittee on Children's Health and Well Being evaluate whether the Board should consider proposing legislation to revise the current statute requiring scoliosis screenings in schools. The possible proposed legislation would make the law less specific regarding the ages and number of times children are screened in school. This would enable the Board to conduct a rule review that includes evaluation of the ages and number of times children are screened in school. At this time the Subcommittee is evaluating whether to propose legislative action. We feel that any proposed action would need to be supported by OSPI and DOH if it were to go forward.

Vital Statistics Rule Review: WAC 246-491

The vital statistics rule must be changed to incorporate these new federal requirements. This rule deals with birth and death certificates. DOH is facilitating an extensive review process on behalf of the Board. Results of this review process will be used to develop a specific draft rule that will be proposed to the Board. The Board can then decide whether to sign a CR-102 and submit the proposed rule for public comment. If the board issues a CR-102, it Board would have to hold a public hearing on the proposed rule at a future meeting.

Newborn Screening Rule Review: WAC 246-650

The Board is working in partnership with DOH to conduct a review of the newborn screening rule. This rule determines the specific screenings that all newborn babies should receive upon delivery. Board member Dr. Tom Locke and State Health Officer Dr. Maxine Hayes will co-chair an advisory committee to conduct the review over the next year. The Board will receive the results of this review by next summer.

Prenatal Screening Rule Review: WAC 246-680

The Board is responsible for determining what screenings health plans should offer pregnant women that they insure. This rule describes those screenings and under what circumstances they should be provided. The Board is conducting this review in partnership with DOH.

Proposed Distribution Plan for *Start Right—Start Healthy* Brochure

The brochure provides information to parents about well-child screenings that the Board recommends for all young children. Two thousand printed copies are available for distribution. Over the summer and early fall, the printed brochures will be distributed through mailings. Electronic versions of the brochure and camera-ready copy suitable for reproduction will be posted on the Board's Web site.

Initially, copies of the brochure will be mailed to:

- school district superintendents and school principals;
- the School Nurses Association of Washington (SNOW), the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA), the Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP), the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) and other relevant health provider organizations,
- the Governor's Office;
- state agencies, including the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Department of Health (DOH), the Health Care Authority (HCA), the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC);
- health and education legislative committees in the House and the Senate;
- local health jurisdictions;
- health plans;
- and other interested organizations and individuals.

Board members are encouraged to share the brochure with any interested organizations and groups with which they have contact.

Staff members will maintain a list of brochure recipients.